

DAVIS. (G.S.)

AN EXPLANATION,

BY THE PUBLISHER, OF THE

NATURE, SCOPE, FORM AND METHOD OF PREPARATION

OF THE

# Index Medicus.



EDITORS,

DR. JOHN S. BILLINGS, SURGEON U. S. ARMY,

AND

DR. ROBERT FLETCHER, M. R. C. S., ENG.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$10.00 A YEAR.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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The publisher of the INDEX MEDICUS has been and is in daily receipt of many enquiries regarding the nature of the work, and of frequent requests for specimen copies. Owing to the expense of publication, a limited edition only is issued—merely sufficient to meet the demands of *bona fide* subscribers—so that it has hitherto been impossible to send out sample copies.

To satisfactorily answer these enquiries, however, and to supply the demand for sample copies, it has been thought expedient to issue an explanatory pamphlet which would give a complete description of the character of the work and its mode of preparation, and which would contain an exact reproduction of pages taken from the work itself, and a miniature photographic illustration of the cover, thus conveying to possible subscribers, and to all interested in the INDEX MEDICUS, an accurate idea of its appearance and contents.

As indicative, also, of the high esteem in which the INDEX MEDICUS is held by the medical press, and the most eminent members of the medical profession of this country and Europe, a few extracts from press notices and letters have been appended.



SKETCH OF  
THE ORIGIN AND MODE OF PREPARATION  
OF THE

# Index Medicus.

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THE scope and purpose of the journal, now in the seventh year of its career, is well known to the prominent members of the medical profession at home and abroad, but even to them, as well as to those who may desire to become subscribers, a statement of the method of its production may be of interest.

## FORM OF INDEX MEDICUS.

The INDEX MEDICUS is a royal octavo journal, each number containing 48 double column pages, handsomely printed from clear type on superior quality of paper—especial care being taken to secure typographical accuracy and perfect finish.

## LIBRARY OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE.

The library of the Surgeon General's office in Washington, one of the most important medical libraries in existence, obtains, by subscription or exchange, all the medical journals, and transactions of medical societies, published in any language in any part of the world. It has required years of diligent enquiry and research to ascertain the names, merely, of these publications, and to perfect the system by which they are obtained, and it is safe to say that there is no such complete collection of current medical literature to be found elsewhere. As fast as these journals are received the titles of all original articles are copied to form part of the Index-Catalogue now being issued under the authority of Congress.

This extensive work, of which the sixth volume (extending nearly through the letter I) is now completed, is a catalogue not only of authors, but of all subjects of medicine, the latter being arranged under a very comprehensive classification. For example, the first six volumes of the work contain under these subject-headings 64,142 books and 219,154 journal articles. This is in addition to the author-titles, which amount to 58,886.\*

All the works thus indexed are to be found in the library, and are, therefore, available for consultation.

When the INDEX MEDICUS was projected in 1878, the Surgeon General, desirous of making the valuable library under his control as useful as possible to the medical profession, consented to permit the titles, written from the current periodicals as they arrived, to be copied for publication in the new journal.

It is obvious that no publisher could undertake to subscribe for, or procure, such a vast quantity of periodical literature, which comprises over 600 journals, beside a large number of transactions and reports. It is only in a great public institution that such a collection could be formed, and be thus utilized for the benefit of the medical profession.

The permission to copy titles merely, would have been of comparatively little use to the publisher, however, but for the fact that Dr. Billings, who has charge of the library, and his assistant, Dr. Fletcher, consented to undertake the editing of the new journal. Upon the thoroughness with which the work has been done it is needless to dilate. The scholarly members of the profession, the writers, the teachers, both in the United States and in Europe, regard it as an indispensable aid to their studies and work.

#### SCOPE OF THE INDEX MEDICUS.

The INDEX MEDICUS not only comprises the titles copied from the daily indexing of the current literature received at the library of the Surgeon General's office, but those of all new medical works, or new editions, which may not form part of that collection, are added, making it, therefore, as far as possible, a *complete bibliography of medicine*. The value of such a record, the only one of its kind

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\* Index-Catalogue of the library of the Surgeon General's office. Vol. VI. Introduction.



in existence, can hardly be over-rated, and as the edition is small and not stereotyped, the volumes are certain to become scarce and enhanced in price.

#### THE ANNUAL INDEX.

The Annual Index of authors' names which accompanies each volume of the INDEX MEDICUS covers over thirty pages of solid type in triple column. In future, in order to facilitate reference to this index, a separate line will be given to each author's name, the latter being in heavy faced type.

#### THE SUBJECT INDEX.

Frequent wishes have been expressed that a *subject-index* should accompany each volume. The enormous labor, and consequent expense, of re-classifying over 40,000 titles is rather appalling, but in order that the INDEX MEDICUS shall be complete in all respects, it has been decided that a copious subject-index shall accompany the present and future volumes.

#### WHEN PUBLISHED.

The INDEX MEDICUS is issued on the last day of each month, and, as far as possible, contains the literature of that month; but it must be remembered that journals from remote places require a long time for their transit. For example, the medical journals from Japan are received but four times in the year, and Spanish, Portuguese, and South American journals arrive about every two months. Nearly two weeks are required for printing and proof-reading, so that each number of the INDEX MEDICUS may be said to represent the medical literature that has accumulated from the fifteenth of the preceding to the fifteenth of the current month.

#### WHY THOSE DESIRING THE WORK SHOULD SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE.

As previously stated, owing to the great expense entailed by the publication of a work of this nature, the publisher begs to announce that a *limited edition only* will be issued. It will not be possible, therefore, to supply future

subscribers with back numbers, and those wishing their subscriptions to date from the beginning of the present volume should send in their orders at once.

#### HOW THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE MAY BE REDUCED.

The Index Medicus has heretofore been published at a very considerable pecuniary loss. Many suggestions from those interested in the welfare of the enterprise have been received by the publisher to the effect that a material reduction in the subscription price would, by making the work popular and its possession by the mass of the profession possible, establish it on a permanently self-sustaining basis. In view of these facts the publisher begs to announce that while the loss resulting from the continuance of the enterprise at the present time which must necessarily be assumed by him, will not admit of a reduction in the subscription price at once, he proposes to reduce the price as soon as the support received from the medical profession will warrant such action. It is thus to the advantage of every subscriber to use his influence in behalf of the INDEX MEDICUS in the circle of his professional friends, and it is hoped the requisite support may be speedily secured.

Especial attention is called to the fact that the Index Medicus is in no sense a money-making enterprise. Its publication is undertaken with the purpose of continuing a work of the greatest importance to this age and to posterity, which had been virtually abandoned.

It can be established on a permanent basis only through the aid of the medical profession, which it chiefly benefits, and this aid is earnestly solicited, and it is sincerely hoped for the sake of the perpetuation of so lasting a monument of the medical work of the age, if for no other reason, it will be cordially supported.

WHO USE IT.

Among the eminent members of the American profession who warmly commend the work may be mentioned:

D. Hayes Agnew, M. D.

John Ashhurst, M. D.

Frank H. Hamilton, M. D.

Wm. H. Draper, M. D.

Fessenden N. Otis, M. D.

J. Solis Cohen, M. D.

Robert Battey, M. D.

A. Jacobi, M. D.

E. G. Janeway, M. D.

Geo. A. Peters, M. D.

T. A. McBride, M. D.

Louis A. Sayre, M. D.

Robert F. Weir, M. D.

E. C. Seguin, M. D.

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S. Weir Mitchell, M. D.

Wm. Pepper, M. D.

A. J. C. Skene, M. D.

H. C. Wood, M. D.

Prof. C. F. Chandler,

And many others of equal eminence, at home and abroad.

The two following pages, which are taken from a recent number of the work will show the method of indexing adopted, and make apparent the ease with which any one pursuing a special line of investigation may familiarize himself with all the recent literature of the subject being studied.

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*Cholera.*

**Cunningham** (J. M.) Cholera: what can the state do to prevent it? Calcutta, 1884. 171 p., 1 map. 8°.

**Hayem** (Georges). Traitement du choléra. Par., 1885, G. Masson. 168 p. 12°.

**Lecocq** (G.) Le choléra à Toulon en 1884, notes d'un étudiant. Péronne, 1885, Quentin. 8°.

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**Oldoni** (S.) Comunicazione preventiva sulla epidemia di cholera-morbus nel comune di Spezia. Firenze, 1884. 8°. [Repr. from: *Idrol. e climat. med.*]

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#### Diphtheria.

See, also, Croup; Tracheotomy.

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**Alderton** (H. C.) Report of eight cases of diphtheria. Brit. M. J., Lond., 1885, i, 835. — **Bassols Prim** (A.) Casos de difteria. Rev. de cien. méd., Barcel., 1885, xi, 185-191. — **Dreier** (V. I.) Papayotin pri difterite. Vrach, St. Petersburg, 1885, vi, 229-231. — **Emmerich**. Ursache der Diphtherie des Menschen und der Tauben. Deutsche Vrtljschr. f. öff. Gsundtsplg. Brnschw., 1885, xvii, 224-226. — **Gille** (P. E.) Chinolinbehandlung i difteri. Hygiea, Stockholm, 1885, xlvii, 281-284. — **Heusinger**. Die Diphtheritis-Epidemie in Raguhn 1883-84; ein statistisch-therapeutischer Beitrag. Deutsche med. Wochenschr., Berl., 1885, xi, 237. — **Hovell** (M.) Apparat zur Entfernung diphtheritischer Membranen aus der Trachea. [Transl. from: Lancet, Lond., 1884, ii, 8.] Illust. Monatsschr. d. ärztl. Polytech., Bern, 1885, vii, 89. — **Lee** (H. H.) A successful case of tracheotomy for diphtheria in a young child. Med. Rec. N. Y., 1885, xxvii, 514. — **Morrison** (F. A.) Sulphur insufflations in the treatment of intralaryngeal diphtheria. Indiana M. J., Indianapolis, 1884-5, iii, 191-193. — **Parsons** (H. F.) Some observations on the etiology of diphtheria. Tr. Epidemiol. Soc. Lond., 1883-4, n. s., iii, 124-

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**Andrjevski** (I.) [Malaria-inflammatory processes and their importance in the pathology of marshy poisons and in the pathology of inflammation.] Voyenno-med. J. St. Petersburg, 1884, cli, pt. 3, 109; 1885, clii, 1; 45. — **Fazio** (E.) Il decotto di limone nella infezione palustre. Riv. internaz. di med. e chir., Napoli, 1885, ii, 83-86. — **Field** (E. E.) "Yellow chills," a comparatively recent manifestation of malaria. Tr. M. Soc. Virg., Richmond, 1884, xv, 126-133. — **Granizo Ramirez** (F.) Estudios sobre la infección palúdica. Gac. méd. de Granada, 1885, iv, 3; 33; 97; 129. — **Griswold** (R. M.) Malaria in its relations to other diseases. N. Eng. M. Month., Sandy Hook, Conn., 1884-5, iv, 313; 363. — **Improvement** (The) of malarious countries. Med. Times & Gaz., Lond., 1885, i, 625. — **Malarial fever**; subject for general discussion. Tr. M. Soc. Virg., Richmond, 1884, xv, 162-173. — **Mariotti** (U.) e G. Ciarrocchi. Sulla trasmissibilità dell'infezione da malaria. Sperimentale, Firenze, 1884, liv, 623-630. — **Minella** (F.) Storia di un caso d'ematuria parossistica d'origine miasmatica.

Before presenting the opinions of the press and profession, we may be permitted to emphasize a few points which the history of the INDEX MEDICUS has proven:

*It is a work absolutely indispensable to medical writers, teachers and practitioners.*

*It renders practicable ready reference to every article on a medical subject published in any part of the world, and thus greatly lightens the labor of research and makes accessible to every subscriber the latest information bearing on any medical topic he may be interested in investigating.*

*Its convenience, utility and value as a means of acquiring the most recent and advanced views from the centres of medical learning cannot be overestimated.*

*It constitutes an imperishable monument of the progress of medical and surgical science.*

*It is the only complete work of the kind published in the world, and is universally commended by the medical press and by the most eminent medical men of all countries.*

The following expressions of approval which have been selected from the many commendatory letters and press notices in the possession of the publisher, will sufficiently indicate the position the INDEX MEDICUS holds in the estimation of those best able to judge of it.

## PRESS AND PROFESSIONAL NOTICES.

"Truly a chef-d'œuvre of medical bibliography and unique of its kind."—*Journal d' Hygiène* (Paris).

"No author or writer can, without great loss of time, dispense with the aid of this useful monthly."—*Deutsches Archiv fuer Geschichte der Medizin* (Leipsic).

"We have no hesitation in saying that this journal is the most valuable contribution to medical science of the present century."—*Glasgow Sanitary Journal*.

"Its discontinuance would be almost a calamity for every intelligent student and practitioner of medicine. . . . It is a marvel of accuracy and completeness."—*Lancet* (London).

"An index of inestimable value. . . . We tender our best thanks to the editors and the enterprising publisher for opening up so valuable a literary mine."—*Medical Press and Circular* (London).

"We do not see how any one can afford to be without this journal. It is a necessity, not only to those who are teachers, but to the busy practitioner everywhere."—*The Medical Record* (New York).

"It is the result of great and continuous labor and research, and supplies a very valuable and useful index to the current medical literature of all the departments of medicine."—*Med. Times and Gazette* (London).

"We consider the 'Index-Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Library,' as well as the INDEX MEDICUS, absolutely indispensable to every person interested in medical literature."—*Gazette Hebd. de Méd. et de Chir.* (Paris).

"The amount of information to be derived from a mere perusal of such a periodical can hardly be realized by one who is not familiar with the refinements to which this business of cataloguing has been carried. It is useful and interesting to *everybody*, whether he be a 'bookworm' or not."—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

"The magnitude of the plan arouses our admiration. No medical opinion can now escape notice, no published analogous cases be overlooked. Let us welcome the gigantic enterprise which, in presenting a universal survey of medical study, must necessarily further the general progress of medical science."—*Corresp.-Blatt. f. Schweizer Aerzte*.

"Although Germany has, for forty years, been in possession of two similar publications (*Schmidt's Jahrbücher*, and *Canstatt's*, now *Virchow & Hirsch's Jahresberichte*), they cannot be compared with the INDEX MEDICUS, which, in bibliographical completeness, has far surpassed both. What heretofore has been presented by our German bibliographers as current medical literature *in toto*, embraced in reality only the principal publications of France, Germany, and England. . . . The work is, indeed, indispensable to every conscientious and truly scientific writer in every branch of medicine."—*Med.-Chir. Centralblatt* (Vienna).

"If such a publication of signal utility to inquirers in all parts of the world is allowed to collapse for the want of the few hundreds necessary to secure its continuance, an opportunity will be lost not very likely to recur. All our energies should be turned toward securing the continuation of the INDEX MEDICUS. —*Lancet* (London).

"To the literature of the profession the INDEX is an immense necessity—a necessity which has never before been met, so that our medical force has been wasted, and our medical literature has been left weak and imperfect. Surely every prosperous doctor can afford ten dollars a year for the development of his science, for the building up of the greatest charity in the world—the medical profession. . . . Let all physicians, who can, subscribe; let them see that their societies aid in the work; let them insist that the public libraries of their respective towns and cities take each a copy; and the enterprise will move hereafter easily and steadily along the grooves of habitual prosperity."—*Medical Times* (Phila.).

"One of the most useful enterprises of the present day is the Index Catalogue of the library of the United States Surgeon-General's office. The first volume was published in 1880, and it is still in progress. The library itself is remarkably complete, and Dr. John S. Billings, its chief, and editor of the catalogue, is most energetic and successful in filling up the vacancies. The Catalogue is remarkable for the fullness of the subject index it embodies. Not only is each work indexed under the author's name, but its subject matter is carefully registered in alphabetical order. In addition to this, in subsidiary type, references are given to articles in periodical publications, both under subjects and authors' names. When completed, the Index Catalogue will be an invaluable work of reference to all students of medicine. Of course such a publication could never be undertaken as a private enterprise, and to the protective tariff of the United States must be awarded the honor of making it possible to persuade Congress to grant the large annual sum necessary to carry it on. If the Treasury had not been embarrassed with enormous sums for which it was hard to find legitimate outlets, we can scarcely imagine that any collection of ordinary citizens could have been brought to see the benefit of a cata-



logue and index of medical books long out of print and obsolete. Dr. J. S. Billings originated another scheme, which has been progressing side by side with the Index Catalogue. This is called the "INDEX MEDICUS: a monthly classified record of current medical literature of the world; compiled under the supervision of J. S. Billings and R. Fletcher." This has been published for about five years, as a private speculation, by Mr. Frederick Leypoldt, an American publisher, whose enthusiasm for the project survived constant losses, and failed only at his death. To the shame of the profession throughout the world it must be recorded that the amount received from subscribers to this most valuable work never paid the cost of production. At Mr. Leypoldt's death it was naturally feared that the publication of the "INDEX MEDICUS" must cease. No publisher was likely to take it up unless the subscription-list was largely increased, and urgent appeals were made to this end, though, we fear, with little result. At this juncture we are glad to see that Mr. George S. Davis, publisher of the *Therapeutic Gazette*, and other medical journals and books, and closely connected with the well-known firm of Parke, Davis & Co., came to the rescue, and has undertaken to continue the publication. The first issue under the new auspices will comprise the literature of January, February, and March, after which it will appear monthly as usual. Such a work is an honor to the country in which it appears, to the originator, the compilers, and to all concerned with it—certainly not least to the publisher to whom it owes its continued existence. Its chances of immortality are a thousand times greater than those of the most successful publications of the day, many of which are likely to be known to future generations only by the three or four lines it devotes to them. To those who use it it saves countless errors and much valuable time. To those who study it with attentive minds it is profoundly suggestive. To the imagination it presents a most interesting spectacle. In all lands human beings are suffering from disease and accident, which others are endeavoring to alleviate. To assist in this task innumerable observations are published in languages as diverse as English and Hungarian, in places as distant as Washington and Hong-Kong, London and Melbourne. The same truth is discovered and forgotten again and again, for no human being unassisted can keep mastery of this immense and scattered host. Where this index is compiled trained men are busy day by day marshalling the details in compact ranks, and subordinating them to the control of any man who can spare an hour to investigate the subject which is engrossing his attention. We only wish that the enterprise had originated in Great Britain, and had been pecuniarily successful from the first. We trust that in its new circumstances it will be better supported, and that there will be no future cause to fear that it may cease."—*London Chemist and Druggist*.

With its December, 1884, number, the INDEX MEDICUS closed its sixth volume, and with that number its publication was suspended. The six years of its

life was a most precarious existence, and had it not been for the generous liberality of certain members of the profession, it must have gone under at the end of its second year. Its publisher, Mr. F. Leyboldt, of New York, had invested quite heavily in the enterprise, with the hope that his efforts would, within a reasonable period, be rewarded with commensurate returns. At the end of the second year, however, he found not only that the balance was on the wrong side of his ledger, but that the financial outlook was far from encouraging enough to justify further outlay. In this emergency a sufficient number of voluntary pledges were made to induce him to continue. With the aid thus given him he was able "to make ends meet," and at the end of three years more, when the pledges expired, he hoped by increasing the subscription price to ten dollars to make the publication self-sustaining. During the past year, however, Mr. Leyboldt died, and his estate felt compelled to suspend the publication. This suspension was a misfortune, the greatness of which those most active in the higher professional work were best qualified to comprehend. It was felt to be all the greater because of the contemplated difficulty of securing anyone who would be willing to take hold of a publication whose history presented such an indifferent financial showing. In this emergency, Mr. George S. Davis, whose reputation for enterprise and intelligent liberality in professional matters is so well known, was requested to come to the rescue, and it gives us pleasure to announce that he has consented to assume the publication.

The INDEX MEDICUS is a monthly classified record of the current medical literature of the world; and, in view of the immense volume of this literature which is being given from the press in these latter days, it is absolutely indispensable to those who desire to extend their researches in any particular direction. The only place where such a record is now kept is at the office of the Surgeon-General, at Washington; but while this is open to all who wish to consult it, it is clearly impracticable for all who may desire so to do, to make a trip to Washington for that purpose. Through the publication of the INDEX MEDICUS this record becomes available to practitioners everywhere. Dr. John S. Billings, U. S. A., and Robert Fletcher, M. D., M. R. C. S., generously donating duplicate copy, as fast as it is prepared, for this publication.

The addition of the annual *Subject Index*, as announced, will greatly add to the usefulness of the work. It will enable the reader at a glance to discover, at the end of the year, the journals containing articles on the particular subject in which he is interested. The additional labor and cost of preparing such an index is very considerable, but Mr. Davis has, nevertheless, acceded to the request of the editors that it be published. This addition will make the INDEX MEDICUS simply perfect for the use for which it was intended. Its non-appearance heretofore, has been due to the fact that the cost deterred the previous publishers from making it.

Now that the publication of the INDEX MEDICUS has passed into new hands,

it is confidently expected that the difficulties which have heretofore beset it will be overcome. Mr. Davis is one of the class of men who count on no possibility of failure in any enterprise in which they engage; and if success is among the possibilities in this new venture, it is safe to predict that he will achieve it. This success must, however, necessarily depend on the extent to which he can interest the profession, and it is confidently hoped that there will be no lack in this regard. The publication is one which it is the duty of the profession to cordially support; and while the subscription price (ten dollars) is rather high, except for those on whom fortune has smiled, there are, fortunately, a sufficient number of the latter in this country and in Europe, to make the venture a financial success. No live, working practitioner, having anything more than a mere pecuniary interest in his calling, can afford not to have the INDEX MEDICUS conveniently at hand for reference. If he feel that the cost is more than his means will justify, he should insist on his medical society subscribing for a copy. Certainly not a single medical society in this country should be without it. The indifferent support which has heretofore been accorded the INDEX MEDICUS is not creditable to the medical profession of this country; it has, indeed, been the subject of remark abroad. We believe this stigma is in a fair way to be removed.—*Medical Age*.

The importance of this work to all real medical scholars, young or old, cannot be too highly estimated. As the several volumes stand upon our library shelves, they furnish a complete index to all the medical journals that have been issued during the years that they cover. To one who has undertaken the task of looking over all the medical journals to get some short article, the advantage of this index will be at once apparent. Formerly it required days to ascertain whether said article was in the journals, but by the aid of the INDEX, five minutes will fully settle the question. Further, if it is desired to learn all the articles which have been written during the year upon a certain subject, a very few moments will give us the complete list, also page and date where we may find these several articles. Again, if we desire to ascertain all the contributions of any one man, the information is ready at our hand.

As a whole this index catalogue is the supplement of the index catalogue of the library of the Surgeon-General's office at Washington. Where this leaves the work of indexing medical literature, the INDEX MEDICUS begins. Taken together these volumes will index all medical libraries in the United States with but slight exceptions. That must be a very small library which can be kept indexed as to the articles and authors for the sum of \$10.00 per year. Besides, most men cannot, for lack of time, or lack of knowledge, index their own libraries. This work is a specialty in itself. Hence all would contribute to their own advantage by at once subscribing to this publication.

A new feature will be added to the work, viz: at the end of each volume

there will be a subject index of the entire volume. This has not been introduced in former volumes owing to its expense. But the present publisher, with his accustomed liberality and enterprise, undertakes the work knowing full well the past bad financial record of the publication, and the additional burden of this new feature.

The cost of this publication is \$10.00 a year. This at once precludes the possibility of the young practitioner devoid of capital from subscribing for the work. But it does not interfere with the subscriptions of all men in middle life of well established incomes. Nor does it interfere with such younger men of scholarly tastes as have other funds than their professional incomes upon which to depend. Above all, it does not interfere with the ability of every medical society, local, state or national, from taking one or more copies. If even this latter list should subscribe for this work, its permanence would be at once assured. If to this was added the subscriptions of the well-to-do-doctors of scholarly tastes, the list would be large and creditable to all concerned. Then, what is of far more importance, the possibilities of American medical scholarship would be vastly elevated. This is the end aimed at by the editors, publisher, and all friends of the enterprise. They confidently appeal to all lovers of the medical profession to lend them a helping hand.

In order that this may be most effective, let every reader of this article at once set about doing all that lies in his power to add one or more to the list of subscribers to the INDEX MEDICUS.—*Detroit Lancet*.

It is not often that an editor is justified in praising the publisher of his journal; but we trust our readers will understand our motive when we speak words of strong approbation of Mr. Davis for undertaking the republication of the INDEX MEDICUS after the history of pecuniary failure which has attended the enterprise. It is but a trite saying that the highest and most valuable work never brings pecuniary reward. The worker in abstract science must be satisfied with a harvest of approbation from his fellows and from himself. The INDEX MEDICUS is a journal which is to ordinary literature what abstract is to popular science. It furnishes the working material for the workers of the profession, and furnishes this material too, in a shape in which it cannot be procured elsewhere. Modern medical literature has become so gigantic in its extent, so multiplied and scattered, that it is impossible for any ordinary physician without aid, to keep even a moderate knowledge of its more remote regions. The INDEX MEDICUS is to the medical thinker and writer a chart of medical literature. Its publication can never pay as a financial enterprise. With all the efforts which have hitherto been made, the publishers have sunk in it about a thousand dollars a year, and it is this responsibility which Mr. George S. Davis has assumed, simply because he has believed the good to be achieved was well worth the sacrifice of money.



We hold, however, that the medical profession ought to bear the burden at least in part. The subscription price to any one individual is a trifling matter, and no man who desires either to know what is being done throughout the world in his own special line of work, or to write matter that is worth reading, can afford to be without access to the INDEX MEDICUS.

We earnestly urge our readers to sustain Mr. Davis in his undertaking by their subscriptions:

First: Out of love to their profession, and to that humanity for which the profession exists.

Second: Because it will pay the individual physician to subscribe.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.

This is one of the most valuable works of reference ever offered to the medical fraternity. In compact form will be found a thorough and very complete index of every work which appears in print and has any relation to the subject of medicine—whether brief monograph or ponderous volume. It classifies them in subjects, and its admirable arrangement shows the reader at once the scope and character of any work he desires to know about, and when and where published. The previous publisher undertook its issue as a matter of enthusiasm and devotion to the cause of bibliography; to him it was a source of large pecuniary loss, and its threatened stoppage of publication was feared and greatly regretted.

Fortunately, however, another enthusiastic publisher has come to the front; and while it is with no anticipation of realizing a profit that he undertakes the publication, yet it is not unreasonable to expect that the medical profession, who have in the past derived much benefit from it, as well as many new friends, will sustain it better in the future.

We urge our readers who have interest in the maintenance of this exceedingly valuable publication to correspond with the publisher, Mr. George S. Davis, Detroit, Mich.—*Pharmaceutical Record*.

In another column we call attention to the announcement, by Drs. Billings and Fletcher, that the INDEX MEDICUS will resume publication under the management of Mr. George S. Davis, of Detroit.

This is a matter of congratulation to the whole medical profession, not only in America, but wherever medicine is regarded as a science. Medical men everywhere, write; and in order to write with comfort to themselves they must have a means of ready reference, and the INDEX MEDICUS is, *par excellence*, the reference work of the world. It is due the generosity and liberal mind of Mr. Davis that the profession should support him—with money, not advice.—*Jour. Amer. Med. Association*.

The announcement of the suspension of the publication of the INDEX MEDICUS, made at the close of last year, occasioned no little regret and disappointment to the warm friends and supporters of this valuable journal.

The utter failure of its publisher, Mr. Leypoldt, to make it a financial success, after several years of earnest effort and serious pecuniary loss, was accepted as its final discontinuance. We are now pleased to announce that arrangements have been made by that enterprising and well-known publisher, Mr. Geo. S. Davis, of Detroit, to continue the publication.

When it is borne in mind that Mr. Davis has determined to carry on this enterprise in spite of the fact that thus far it has not been pecuniarily remunerative, we feel sure the friends and patrons of the INDEX, and the profession at large, will give a more liberal and generous support to his disinterested efforts in behalf of higher medical literature.

The present publisher should not be allowed to carry on this work without a cordial support and liberal aid upon the part of the profession, in whose behalf the enterprise has been undertaken.—*Maryland Med. Jour.*

Der INDEX MEDICUS ein den Interessen der medizinischen Wissenschaft gewidmetes Journal, wird laut Mittheilung der Redaktion, Dr. John L. Billings und Dr. Robert Fletcher, von Herrn Geo. S. Davis, Detroit, und zwar nach demselben Plan und Prinzipien wie früher wieder herausgegeben werden. Die moderne medizinische Literatur hat derartige Dimensionen angenommen und ist so über die ganze Erde verbreitet, dass es dem strebsamen Praktikanten nur willkommen sein kann, sich dieses zerstreute Material, welches im INDEX MEDICUS in gerdrängter und übersichtlicher Form zusammengefasst ist, anzueignen. Die Zeit, welche erforderlich war, um die nothwendigen Arrangements zur treffen, hat natürlich eine Verzögerung in dem Erscheinen desselben hervorgerufen, so dass in Folge derselben die erste Nummer die Monate Januar, Februar und März umfassen wird; nach dieser Zeit wird der Index regelmässig monatlich erscheinen. Am Ende des Jahres wird dem Namensverzeichniss noch ein Register der während dieser Zeit behandelten Themata beigefügt werden. Ohne Rücksicht auf den Preis des Journals, sollte jeder Arzt, der seinen Beruf liebt und im Interesse der Humanität sich mit den neusten Errungenschaften auf dem Gebiet der Medizin auf dem Laufenden zu erhalten wünscht, das Unternehmen des Herrn Davis unterstützen.—*Apotheker Zeitung.*

Last week we had the pleasure of stating that Mr. George S. Davis, of Detroit, with considerable liberality and enterprise, had undertaken to continue the publication of the INDEX MEDICUS, the announcement of the suspension of which, from a lack of a sufficient number of subscriptions, had been received by the profession with expressions of profound regret.

In undertaking this work, Mr. Davis incurs the same responsibility which has resulted in an annual loss during the past six years to its former publisher, Mr. Leypoldt, and he feels that a publication which is of such inestimable value to the profession, and which is so highly appreciated by all who consult it, should not be allowed to cease if further endeavor can make it self-supporting. In his public-spirited effort, Mr. Davis should receive the cordial encouragement and support of the profession throughout the world, for the value of the INDEX MEDICUS is not limited by geographical lines. We trust soon to learn that sufficient new subscriptions have been received to render its publication as permanent as it is indispensable.—*Philadelphia Medical News*.

We heartily commend the journal to our readers, and hope they will all subscribe for it.—*Kansas City Medical Index*.

The thanks of the profession are certainly due Mr. Davis for his disinterested kindness in assuming the pecuniary risk of the INDEX, and it will be little to the credit of American Medicine if in this risk he finds a loss.—*Louisville Medical News*.

The medical profession will hear with pleasure that the publication of the INDEX MEDICUS will be resumed by George S. Davis, of Detroit, Mich. The enterprise merits a better support than it has heretofore received, and we trust the medical profession of the United States will vindicate the claims of medicine to high rank among the progressive sciences of the age by supporting this enterprise.—*The Druggist*.

THE INDEX MEDICUS, constituting as it does a *complete* catalogue of every book, magazine article, or other publication, on medical or allied subjects, is one of the most valuable medical journals of the world. Although not appealing to the rank and file of the profession, it is an absolutely indispensable work of reference to all medical writers, editors and workers in special fields, and altogether one of the most useful books to be found upon the shelves of any medical library, private or public.

Owing to the peculiar nature of the journal, it has not heretofore been remunerative to its owners, but with rare and commendable disinterestedness Mr. Davis has, in spite of this fact, undertaken its publication in all of its former accuracy and beauty of form.

The editors of this journal congratulate Mr. Davis upon his public-spirited resolve, promise him their warm support and sympathy in the undertaking, and call upon all workers in the field of medical knowledge to lend them their prompt support.—*New Orleans Med. and Surg. Jour.*

Many were the expressions of regret at the discontinuance of the INDEX MEDICUS, the value of which publication could hardly be estimated, and now we are sure that the profession will be glad to learn that it is to be continued. Mr. Geo. S. Davis, of Detroit, the well-known medical publisher, has undertaken the task, and it is to be earnestly hoped that he will be heartily supported. A few more subscriptions only were needed to put the enterprise on a self-sustaining basis, and these certainly ought to be obtained without much trouble.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*

It was with profound regret that every one interested in the advancement of medical science, and especially the welfare and standing of the profession in America, learned of the suspension of the INDEX MEDICUS. The very great value of this work has been sufficiently attested, both in this country and throughout Europe, and Mr. Davis is certainly worthy of all praise for his generous offer to carry it on. May it not be hoped that it will receive in the future a more cordial support than it has hitherto done?—*Gaillard's Medical Journal.*

In former years we have repeatedly called attention to this valuable periodical, the publication of which was undertaken by the late Frederick Leypoldt, New York. We learn that thus far the enterprise has not been pecuniarily remunerative; but it is to be hoped that the support from the medical profession will be such as to make the publication self-sustaining; its importance cannot be over-estimated, containing as it does the subjects of all papers relating to medicine, appropriately classified, which are published throughout the civilized world, thus making an invaluable repository of all investigations and observations on the science and practice of medicine in its widest application.—*American Journal of Pharmacy.*

We are glad to learn that this useful work is again to be published, under the management of Mr. George S. Davis, of Detroit. The general plan of the book will remain the same. It is to be hoped that the new publisher will meet with better success in his enterprise than fell to the share of his predecessors.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

Nous sommes heureux d'apprendre que la publication de l' "INDEX MEDICUS," de Washington, revue mensuelle de bibliographie, fondée par Leypoldt, et dont les travailleurs déplorent l' interruption, va être reprise par M. George S. Davis de Detroit (Michigan).—*L' Union médicale, Paris.*

Abbiamo appreso con vivo piacere la notizia che Mr. George S. Davis, di Detroit si è accinto a continuare la pubblicazione di quell' importantissimo periodica che era l' "INDEX MEDICUS." Il primo numero, che apparirà fra



bene, conterrà le pubblicazioni avvenuti nel primo trimestre di quest' anno.—  
*Gazetta medica italiana lombardia*, Milano.

\* \* \* Que disait-on, ces jours-ci, l' INDEX MEDICUS se meurt !  
L' INDEX MEDICUS est mort ! L' INDEX MEDICUS, le complément du catalogue de Washington ! Cela n'est pas possible, ce serait une perte irréparable. Les journaux Américains arrivés hier innocent que le recueil mensuel, dirigé avec tant de sagacité et de persévérance par M. M. Billings et Fletcher, ne tardera pas à reparaître. *Espérons en cette bonne nouvelle et renouvelons nos abonnements.* \* \* \* \* —Dr. A. Dureau, in *Gaz. méd. de Paris*.

Diese Rundschau der medicinischen Literatur aller Culturländer wird monatliche, nach Materien geordnete Uebersichten der neuen Erscheinungen, seien es Bücher, oder Abhandlungen in Zeitschriften und Publicationen medicinischer Gesellschaften geben. Am Ende jeden Jahrgangs soll ein Autoren- und ein Materienregister hinzugefügt werden, welche eine vollständige medicinische Bibliographie des vergangenen Jahrs bilden werden.

Das 1. Heft, publicirt am 31, Januar, trifft in Kürze ein und steht Handlungen, die Aussicht auf Absatz haben, gratis in mässiger Anzahl zur Verfügung.

Als sichere Abnehmer dürfte man die Redactionen medicinischer Zeitschriften, medicinische Lesegesellschaften, Bibliotheken, Professoren und mit der Wissenschaft fortschreitende Aerzte betrachten.

Die anerkannte Tüchtigkeit der Redacteurs, die hervorragende Stellung derselben unter amerikanischen Aerzten und die erprobte Leistungsfähigkeit des Verlegers sichern dem Unternehmen Erfolg und Fortgang.

K. F. KÖHLER.

Leipzig, Februar, 1879.

Der "INDEX MEDICUS" von John S. Billings und Robert Fletcher war in Gefahr, einzugehen. Wer den ausserordentlichen Wert dieses grossartig angelegten Unternehmens, das alle literarischen Erscheinungen auf dem Gebiete der medicinischen Wissenschaft verzeichnete und mit dem Verzeichneten auf dem Laufenden zu bleiben bestrebt war, das für alle übrigen bibliographischen ähnlichen Unternehmungen Muster und Anreger gewesen ist, kennt, wird den Verlust zu ermessen wissen, der der Literatur drohte. Derselbe ist abgewandt durch die Bereitwilligkeit des für die medicinische Publizistik Amerika's sich ausserordentliche Mühe gebenden und wohlverdienten Buchhändler's George S. Davis, Detroit, Mich., welcher mit den bisherigen Herausgebern das Weitererscheinen des INDEX ankündigt. Die letzteren bitten, alle Tauschexemplare, Bücher, Separat-Abdrücke und sonstige Notizen an "The INDEX MEDICUS, Washington, D. C." zu senden.—*D. Med.-Zeitung*.

PROFESSIONAL NOTICES.

"I have found the 'INDEX' of infinite assistance in my work."—T. M. Markoe, M. D., New York.

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"I am delighted with the INDEX MEDICUS. The work is very ably and faithfully done, and in the best of hands. That it fills a want long and sorely felt in the medical profession no one who is engaged in literary work can doubt. The regret is that it was not instituted a quarter of a century ago."—T. Gaillard Thomas, New York.

"I do not find words to tell you how much I value your INDEX MEDICUS. If I could have had it when I commenced the study and practice of medicine it would have saved me several years of labor, and have added so much to my life. To any medical student it is economy of time and of money, nor can I see how it can be improved."—Frank H. Hamilton, M. D., New York.

"If any publication in the country deserves well of the profession, the INDEX does. It cannot be that American medical men do not read, nor care to keep up with the times. It is difficult to believe that our doctors have so little national or professional pride as to let a publication die for want of support, which does so much honor to them and to the country."—W. Sturges Biglow, M. D., Boston.

"It is simply a necessity for every student of medical literature, for every medical teacher, even for every medical practitioner who wishes to keep abreast with the progress of his art. We have in it, done once and for every one in the most thorough manner, that which heretofore it has been necessary for thousands to do separately, at a vast expense of time and trouble. I shall be a permanent subscriber."—William Pepper, M. D., Philadelphia.

"It offers on a larger scale, and with more system, a very similar catalogue of references to one which I have kept for years to assist me in my own medical studies and writings, and without which whatever little I have done as an author and teacher would have been impossible. . . . If it shall prove successful, we shall have good reason to form a higher estimate of medical scholarship in this country than has hitherto been entertained. It will afford me great pleasure—indeed, I shall hold it to be a duty—to commend this publication wherever an opportunity to do so presents itself."—Alfred Stillé, M. D., Philadelphia.



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